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Dodecatheon pulchellum

[Synonyms : *Dodecatheon amethystinum*, *Dodecatheon cylindrocarpum*, *Dodecatheon integrifolium*, *Dodecatheon macrocarpum*, *Dodecatheon pauciflorum*, *Dodecatheon puberulum*, *Dodecatheon radicum*, *Dodecatheon vulgare*, *Exinia pulchella*]

DARKTHROAT SHOOTING STAR is a perennial. Native to western North America and to Mexico it has cyclamen-like, purple ring-throated, rose-purple to lilac flowers.

It is also known as American cowslip, Birdbills, Cyclamen, Dark throat, Few-flowered shooting star, Johnny jump, Lady-slipper, Mad violets, Mosquito bells, Pinks, Pinky-winky, Rooster heads, Shooting star, Slender shooting star, Southern shooting star, and Western shooting star.

Pulchellum is Latin (very pretty) meaning ‘pretty’.

Some authorities have noted the names Cyclamen and Mad violets and recalled late 19th Century reports that Italian countryfolk then referred to true Cyclamen (*Cyclamen hederifolium*) as Mad violets.

The North American Thompson Indian tribe reproduced its flowers in the bead patterns on their vests, jackets, gloves and moccasins.

Today the perennial is cultivated as an ornamental.

Elk and other deer eat the plants in Springtime.